



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ Seeks Nominations for 2006 Gulf Guardian Awards Deadline extended to Sept. 15

BATON ROUGE - The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is seeking recipients for the Gulf Guardian Award. As a partner with the Gulf of Mexico Program, DEQ is encouraging Louisiana residents to nominate citizens, companies and organizations that are taking positive steps to keep the Gulf of Mexico and associated coastal water habitats healthy, beautiful and productive.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf of Mexico Program created the Gulf Guardian Award in 2000. The award was developed as a way to honor individuals and groups who are striving to make an environmental difference in the Gulf of Mexico. Each year, first, second and third place awards are given in six categories which are business, government, civic/nonprofit, youth/education, partnerships, and individuals.

"Many people in Louisiana work hard to protect and improve the state's coastal environment. The Gulf is an area that provides natural, economic and cultural riches to our state and nation." said Karen Gautreaux, DEQ Deputy Secretary. "These efforts are worthy of the recognition the Gulf Guardian Award brings. We want to encourage everyone to look around at the good work that's being done and submit nominations."

The Gulf of Mexico Program was started in 1988 and consists of local, state and federal government agencies, the business and agricultural community, fishing industry, university scientists and environmental and community leaders from five Gulf Coast states. The goal is to protect, restore and maintain the health and productivity of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem in a way that is cooperative, non-regulatory and economically sustainable.

Entry forms for the 2006 Gulf Guardian Award are available on line at www.epa.gov/gmpo/gulfguard.html. The deadline is set for Sept. 15. Complete the form and email it to gulf.guardian@epa.gov. For assistance with the application process or for more information call Diane Altsman with the Gulf of Mexico Program at 228-688-7015 or Dugan Sabins with DEQ at 225-219-3553.

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